

1954.

ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE HEALTH
OF THE
COWES URBAN DISTRICT

BY

JOHN MILLS,

M.D., CH.B., M.R.C.S. (ENG.), L.R.C.P. (LOND.), D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

ISLE OF WIGHT:

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1955

COUNTY HALL,
NEWPORT, I.W.

December, 1955.

To the Members of the Cowes Urban District Council :—

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS.

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1954.

The birth rate rose from 13.24 to 13.7 and the death rate fell from 12.9 to 12.4.

The Infantile Mortality rate rose from 17.93 to 30.3.

One death occurred from whooping cough, but none from measles or infantile diarrhœa.

There were only 3 deaths from tuberculosis of all forms during the year.

Six deaths from cancer of the lung were recorded, the same figure as in the previous year.

Twenty-seven deaths were due to strokes compared with 26 the previous year, while heart disease accounted for 70 deaths compared with 79 in the previous year. These figures remain fairly close each year.

Five deaths were due to motoring accidents compared with none the previous year.

From the incidence of notifiable diseases it was an excellent year, the total number of cases falling from 857 to 73.

While recognising the great potential educational value of television, it is sad to see the evil effects on children in those homes where the viewing is not reasonably controlled, In many schools it is possible to pick out the children who

watch television far too late. Teachers speak of drowsy, inattentive pupils and are concerned at the evil effects uncontrolled viewing is having on the health of the school child.

In addition to lack of necessary sleep, the habit of reading is gradually becoming lost. Wise parents have the remedy in their own hands.

While it is true that hygienic conditions of food handling is, on the whole becoming more widespread, there are certain cases where no amount of advice, instructions or warning is of any avail. When lectures and literature on Clean Food Handling are given, those who are in most need of it do not attend. Those food handlers who are aware of the importance of applied cleanliness are the only ones who will co-operate in an attempt to make their already good standards even better. It is at the core of indifferent food handlers that all the efforts of the Public Health Department must be directed.

Clean handling and transport is particularly important in the care of those foods that are to be consumed uncooked. Bread in particular is exposed to contamination.

Problem Families about which much has been written in previous reports are still with us and are the occasion of much anxiety. I must thank the Council for the sympathetic consideration which they have always shown to my recommendations in these cases in respect of re-housing.

As the incidence of infectious diseases falls, a new class of diseases is forever on the increase. Perhaps the greatest incidence of disease today is due to psychosomatic causes—stress, in one form or another. Diseases such as coronary thrombosis, asthma, colitis and a host of others are attributed to stress. A field in which the Council has done much to relieve one cause of disease-producing stress is in the provision of houses for those living in overcrowded and unhealthy surroundings.

In a great many cases a striking change is visible in the health of a woman who at last finds a home of her own.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN MILLS,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, 1954.

Medical Officer of Health :—

JOHN MILLS, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P.
(Lond.), D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :—

R. H. HOWARD, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (appointed 12-5-54).

Additional Sanitary Inspector :—

J. H. TURNER, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I. (appointed 1-9-54).

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	5,542
No. of inhabited houses (end of 1954) per rate books					5,491 (approx.)
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	£121,435
Sum represented by 1d. rate	...	...	...	...	£477

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

These are unchanged since the last report.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Population (Registrar General's Figures)	...	16,820
Live birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	13.7
Comparative factor (births)	...	1.08
Comparative Birth Rate	...	14.8
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	29.41
Crude death rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population	...	12.4
Comparative factor (deaths)	...	0.82
Comparative death rate	...	10.2
Puerperal death rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)	...	Nil
Infantile Mortality :—		
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	30.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	...	31.4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	41
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	Nil

BIRTHS.

The total number of live births was 231, giving a live birth rate per 1,000 living of 13.7, the corresponding rate for England and Wales being 15.2.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths was 209 giving a death rate of 12.4 per 1000 of the estimated resident population. The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 11.3.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The Infantile Mortality rate was 30.3 per 1,000 registered live births, the rate for England and Wales being 25.5.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

CAUSE	MALE	FEMALE
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	2
Tuberculosis, other	—	—
Syphilitic disease	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	5	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	16	9
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	—	—
Diabetes	1	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	17	10
Coronary disease, angina ...	13	2
Hypertension with heart disease ...	2	5
Other heart disease	26	22
Other circulatory disease ...	4	3
Influenza	—	2
Pneumonia	4	4
Bronchitis	7	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	2	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—
Congenital malformations ...	1	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	7
Motor vehicle accidents	4	1
All other accidents	3	2
Suicide	3	—
Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—
ALL CAUSES	128	81

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

During the year complaints were received in respect of 319 properties, all of which were investigated, resulting from which 184 preliminary letters and notices were sent.

20 statutory notices were served following non-compliance of preliminary notices.

290 dwelling houses were inspected for defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

The total number of inspections and re-inspections made during the year was 2,741.

Particulars of Sanitary Improvements made and defects remedied are contained in the following table :—

Water fittings repaired	...	...	8
New w.c.'s fixed	...	...	9
Defective flush pipe connections	...	...	11
Flushing cisterns	...	...	13
Drains repaired and renewed	...	...	67
New sinks provided...	...	...	3
Gutters and rain water pipes...	...	...	26
Roofs	...	...	49
Brickwork and pointing	...	...	12
Dirty premises cleansed	...	...	29
Floors repaired	...	...	15
Windows and doors repaired	...	...	18
Sash cords renewed	...	...	23
Fireplaces repaired and renewed	...	...	10
Accumulations of refuse removed	...	...	26
Walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	14
W.c.'s choked	...	...	31
Pipes burst	...	...	5
Dampness abated	...	...	87
Water supplies provided	...	...	4
Verminous premises	...	...	22
New dustbins provided	...	...	7

COUNCIL HOUSES.

As a routine matter 589 inspections were paid to Council houses to determine their condition of cleanliness and repair.

All defects and repairs needed were listed and cases of overcrowding and contraventions of tenancy reported.

New housing applicants were all visited at their homes to assess the degree of priority and need of re-housing.

During the year the number of new houses built within the district was made up as follows :—

Local Authority	...	...	25 houses
Housing Association	...	...	4 houses
Private enterprise	...	...	29 houses
			58 houses

DRAINAGE.

All drainage works in progress were inspected for compliance with the Building Byelaws and on completion were subject to a hydraulic or smoke test.

178 inspections were made in relation to new drainage works and 71 tests of new drains were carried out.

RODENT CONTROL.

Complaints received for rat and mice infestation for the twelve months ending 31st March, 1955, were 170; these were all dealt with by the Rodent Officer of the Isle of Wight (Destruction) Joint Committee, which is comprised of representatives and the Sanitary Inspector of each constituent authority.

Visits were made to 74 Council owned premises, refuse tips and yards, etc., 950 dwelling houses, 315 business and industrial premises.

4 major and 116 minor rat infestations were discovered and 110 minor mice infestations.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The quality of the water supply to the district was kept under constant observation, and samples of raw and treated water subjected to bacteriological examination.

Throughout the year samples taken were as follows:—

Newport Road Filter House	...	49
Broadfields Pumping Station	...	14
East Cowes Pumping Station	...	13
Domestic premises from the tap	...	7
Well at Barton Manor		1
		—
		84
		—

One sample of water from the mains supply was taken for Chemical analysis.

Report on the chemical analysis of a sample of water.

Sample was taken from rising main tap over the kitchen sink at 3, York Street, Cowes.

Appearance : Faint brown opalescent

Smell : Nil

Taste : Normal

			<i>Parts per million</i>
Total solids and matter	...	...	225
Suspended solids...	...	...	Nil
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	.02
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	.13
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	1.0
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	Nil
Chlorine present as chloride	...		28
Oxygen absorbed 4 hours at 27°C.			2.1
Hardness (Temporary)	...	...	95
Hardness (Permanent)	...	...	45
Hardness (Total)	...	...	140
Metals—lead, copper, zinc	...		Nil
Metals—iron		...	Faint trace

Observations.

This is a very satisfactory water, free from animal or vegetable organic pollution. It is free from undesirable metallic contamination.

From a chemical aspect, this sample has normal characteristics and in my opinion it is quite suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

(Signed) A. L. WILLIAMS,

Public Analyst.

30th December, 1954.

SWIMMING AND PADDLING POOLS.

The Gurnard Pines Holiday Camp's open air swimming pool is equipped with a filtration and chlorination plant which is operated by qualified personnel.

The children's paddling pool situated at the East Cowes Esplanade is filled by a mains water supply. Emptying and cleansing is carried out at regular intervals during the months when it is subject to heavy use.

Samples taken from the pools and submitted to the pathological laboratory for bacteriological examination were in all respects satisfactory.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

The total number of shops included on the register was 282.

Regular and routine inspections were made to enforce the provisions of the Act, and one contravention was reported of the sale of goods after evening closing hours.

Informal action was taken with the offender.

Following the delegation of the Shops Act power to this Authority a circular letter and a summary of the principal provisions of the Act, with a list of forms and notices which are required to be displayed were despatched to all shopkeepers.

Orders were made during the year being cited as the Cowes Holiday Resort (Suspension of Weekly Half Holiday) Order, this permitted the suspension of weekly half holidays for a period of four months commencing on the first day of June. The second order being the Sunday Trading Order, allowing Sunday trading for eighteen consecutive Sundays for certain goods as listed in the order.

FOOD SUPPLIES PREMISES-- CONDEMNED FOODS.

The quantities of tinned and packed foods subject to condemnation has shown a decrease over the immediate post war years. This is probably due to a high standard of canning returning once again and the re-appearance of better class tinned foods and increased quantities of fresh foods being available, also the return of pre-war arrangements between wholesalers and retailers with regard to canned goods.

The following food, on inspection, was found to be unfit for human consumption and was condemned —

	lbs.
755 tins and jars of Fish, Fruit, Vegetables, Milk and Meat	678
Cooked Meats	249
Meat and Offal	307
Bacon	25
Fish	35
Skinmed Rabbits	60
Cheese	35
Flour (2 bags)	252
	1,641

ICE CREAM.

The number of premises registered for the sale of ice cream was 86, this includes 1 manufacturer of ice cream.

A total of 42 samples were taken of bulk ice cream as served to the public. These were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination by the Methylene Blue Test.

The results of the samples were as follows :—

28 Samples.	Grade 1.
4 Samples.	Grade 2.
7 Samples.	Grade 3.
3 Samples.	Grade 4.

The question of unsatisfactory samples was in each case investigated and subsequent grade 1 samples produced.

MEAT INSPECTION AND SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Following the end of rationing and the allocation of meat supplies three applications were received for the licensing of slaughter houses which were at the time disused.

Upon consideration, these applications were refused in view of the age, disrepair and general construction of the slaughter houses and adjoining buildings, and that it was not reasonably practicable to render the premises suitable.

Consequently no slaughtering is carried out in this district the bulk of the killing being in the Newport area where meat inspection is performed by the Newport Borough Sanitary Inspector, before despatch for retail sale in butchers' premises.

The majority of English and imported meat and offal transported from the mainland is held in cold storage at the two storage depots situated in the High Street, before distribution throughout the Island.

Continual supervision is kept on the methods of hanging, handling, and transporting of the carcasses, in order to prevent contamination.

MILK SUPPLIES.

There are 6 registered premises from which milk is sold for retail sale in the district and all pasteurised milk is treated at the pasteurising and bottling plant situated outside the district.

During the year, 39 applications under the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, and the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949/1950, were made and licences were granted as follows :—

Pasteurised	11 dealers and 7 supplementary.
Tuberculin Tested	14 dealers and 7 supplementary.

11 applications under the Milk and Dairy Regulations, 1949, were made for registration as Distributors and Dairies.

All milk supplied to schools within the district is pasteurised.

No complaints were received of contaminated bottles and no further cases were reported of milk caps being found in school milk bottles following the matter being taken up with the suppliers.

FOOD SHOPS, CAFES AND RESTAURANTS.

There are approximately 171 premises from which food is stored, exposed, or offered for sale and 30 restaurants, snack bars and hotels open to non-residents.

Many of the catering establishments are seasonal and only open four months of the year ; structural alterations and improvements are carried out during the winter months and in this way a continual improvement is brought about each year.

All food shops and catering premises were inspected during the year and by suggestions and recommendations many improvements were carried out and the general standard of cleanliness was good, but in some cases constant supervision is required to ensure that a satisfactory standard of cleanliness is maintained.

A comprehensive and thorough survey of all types of food premises was commenced in the latter part of the year to ensure that the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, were being fully complied with, but owing to pressure of work this, as yet, is not complete.

FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK AND DAIRIES) ACTS 1944. URBAN DISTRICT OF COWES.

Samples of milk were taken during the year from herds whose milk is retailed raw without heat treatment. These samples were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Winchester, for the presence of live Tubercle Bacilli.

Number of samples taken for T.B. during 1954	...	39
Number of samples found to be positive	...	—
Number of samples in which <i>Brucella Abortus</i> was isolated	...	1

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There were 73 notifications of infectious diseases, 61 of which were for Whooping Cough. There were no cases of Diphtheria.

Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases among school children.

Mumps	...	45
Chicken Pox	...	68
Influenza and Influenza Colds	1177	
		—
		1290
		—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Food Poisoning ...	3	—	—
Meningococcal Infec- tion ...	—	—	—
Smallpox ...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	2	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (includ- ing Paratyphoid) ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—
Encephalitis ...	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—
Measles ...	1	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	61	2	1
Malaria ...	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	6	—	—
Totals ...	73	2	1

AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION.

Age.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Dysentery	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Whooping Cough	Measles	Meningococcal Infection	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Acute Poliomyelitis	Food Poisoning	Acute Encephalitis
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under 2	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 „ 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 „ 4	—	—	2	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 „ 5	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 „ 10	1	—	—	—	—	—	31	1	—	—	—	—	—
10 „ 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
15 „ 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 „ 35	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
35 „ 45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 „ 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	—	6	—	—	—	61	1	—	—	—	3	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS.	Totals.	New Cases.				Totals.	Deaths.			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F
0 and under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1 " " 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
5 " " 10	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
10 " " 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
15 " " 20	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	
20 " " 25	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
25 " " 35	5	1	3	—	1	2	—	1	—	
35 " " 45	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	
45 " " 55	2	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	
55 " " 65	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
65 and over	1	1	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	
Total ...†	20	9	8	1	2	*5	2	2	1 —	

†Included in this total are seven transfers from the mainland.

*Included in this total are two patients who died from another cause.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Particulars of the administration of the Factories Act, 1937,
Parts I and VIII administered by the Council.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	8	6	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	74	46	7	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	12	—	—
Total ...	87	64	7	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they are reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H. M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	2	2	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient... ..	2	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	9	9	—	8	—
(c) not separatefor sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	14	13	—	8	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK. (Sections 110 and 111.)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing } Making, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—
apparel } Cleaning	—	—	—	—	—	—
} and washing	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lampshades	78	—	—	—	—	—
Other classes of work	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	78	—	—	—	—	—

